



NEWSLETTER OF THE LONDON CHAPTER,
ONTARIO ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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98-3

Our speaker for the May 14 meeting is Paul Lennox, Ministry of Transportation Archaeologist for Southwest Region. The title of his talk is *From the Early Archaic to the Late Woodland: Some Views From A Hole*. Paul promises to provide insights into the past through a detailed review of extensive and meticulous excavations at three Simcoe County sites, the 17th century Molson village and the Archaic period Rentner and McKean sites. The audience will be treated to subjects ranging from chert acquisition and use over a 10,000 year period to our constructs of ethnic identity based on our reconciliation of the archaeological and historical records.

Please note that this is the last meeting before the summer break. The next Speaker Night will be the second Thursday in September.

As always, our meeting will be held at 8 pm at the London Museum of Archaeology, 1600 Attawandaron Road, near the corner of Wonderland & Fanshawe Park Road, in the northwest part of the city.

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ANNUAL RATES

Individual.....	\$18.00
Student.....	\$15.00
Institutional.....	\$21.00
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EXECUTIVE REPORT

The Occasional Publications of the London Chapter are rolling off the presses fast and furious thanks to the slavish work of the series editors, Neal Ferris and Chris Ellis. The 7th in this series of stellar publications is *The Meyers Road Site - Archaeology of the Early to Middle Iroquoian Tradition* edited by Ron Williamson. This volume is available through the Chapter for a mere \$18.00.

SOCIAL REPORT

A call for papers has gone out for the 25th Annual Symposium of the Ontario Archaeological Society. This year's symposium will be held October 16-18 at the Woodland Cultural Centre in Brantford. The theme is *Archaeologists and First Nations: Bridges from the Past to a Better Tomorrow*. Secondary themes include *From Time Immemorial/The First 10,000 Years* and *The Last Few Centuries*. Paul Lennox, London Chapter's own, is program chair. Any one wishing to participate should e-mail him at lennoxpa@epo.gov.on.ca or call (519) 438-9595.

The Heliconian Club in Toronto is holding two events to raise funds for a new roof for the club's building, a wooden Gothic church built in 1875. The first event is a day long session on native art and history, to be held May 23rd at the Heliconian Club, 35 Hazelton Avenue, in Yorkville, Toronto. Speakers will include Tom Hill, Museum Director of the Woodland Cultural Centre, at 10 am; and, Rodney Bobiwash, Executive Director of the Native Canadian Centre of Toronto, at 1:30 pm. Entrance to this event is by donation. The second event is the Dickason Gala to be held on the evening of May 26th. Olive Dickason is an honoured historian of the First Nations. The Gala will include a reception and dinner followed by her presentation entitled *World View in First Nations Art*. Tickets for the Dickason Gala cost \$50 with a \$25 charitable donation receipt from the Heliconian Hall Foundation. Space limits attendance at the dinner to 80 persons, so those interested should call (416) 922-3618 without delay.

EDITORS' REPORT

This month's article, by Dana Poulton and Christine Dodd, describes the results of a multi-year study of Victoria Park, City of London. Background research and archaeological survey carried out on behalf of the city have established that the property has a rich and complex history spanning some 170 years, and that it includes a wealth of remains relating to the infantry barracks established by the British following the Rebellion of 1837. The present article is the first KEWA since Ian Kenyon's 1995 study of rural house abandonment that is devoted to the subject of historic archaeology. It represents an important addition to the very short list of published works on the 19th century archaeology of London.

The Archaeological Investigations of Victoria Park, City of London, Ontario

by D. R. Poulton and C.F. Dodd

INTRODUCTION

In 1995, the City of London initiated a long-term study to determine the future of Victoria Park, the oldest public park in the municipality. Victoria Park serves as the location for many of London's major events, including the annual Home County Folk Festival, Children's Festival and Sunfest. The pressure of all of these events, combined with the effects of an aging infrastructure, have taken their toll on the health of the park. It is these conditions which occasioned the need for a master plan for Victoria Park.

The first step in the Victoria Park master plan was carried out by a study team headed by Sylvia Behr, Landscape Architect. It focussed on an inventory of the natural and cultural heritage of the property, and an assessment of current conditions (Behr et al. 1995). Further investigations continued in 1996 by a study team headed by Hough Woodland Naylor Dance Limited, and involved the identification of opportunities and constraints, together with the preparation of a restoration master plan (HWND et al. 1997). D.R. Poulton & Associates provided archaeological expertise on both these studies.

In 1997, D.R. Poulton was commissioned by the City of London to expand the background study to a field-based assessment of archaeological resources within the property. The archaeological survey was directed by Dana Poulton and Christine Dodd. It was carried out over a nine day period in October, 1997. This article details some of the findings of the background research and field work. Although the survey was a vital part of the resource management study, this article primarily focuses on the results of the background research. The rationale for this approach is that the reconstruction of land use through time forms the true basis for our understanding of the history of Victoria Park, and its place in the evolution of London.

LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

Victoria Park is situated in downtown London and covers a total surface area of 6.25 hectares (15.4 acres). Most of the property consists of areas of grass and mature trees separated by paths. The only major structure is the bandshell. It is located on the western edge of the park, and was constructed in 1990 to replace the original Kiwanis bandshell built in 1950. Several monuments and memorials are situated within the park, including the Boer War Monument and the Cenotaph. One of particular significance to this study is an historic plaque which commemorates the fact that Victoria Park was the site of the Framed Infantry Barracks of the British military garrison established in London following the Rebellion of 1837.

CHRONOLOGICAL REVIEW OF LAND USE

The only evidence for a potential prehistoric occupation of Victoria Park is an undiagnostic biface which was found some years ago. This piece has been registered as AfHh-239. The 1997 survey found no evidence to substantiate a prehistoric presence within the park. However, the survey did confirm a wealth of remains relating to historic land use in the 19th and 20th centuries. For practical purposes, five sequential periods may be defined which encompass the range of archaeological remains confirmed by the Stage 2 field survey. These are described below.

Pre-Military 19th Century Settlement (1793-1837 A.D.)

This period spans the inception of the early settlement of London, from the initial visit by John Graves Simcoe in 1793 to the arrival of British troops in 1838. More particularly, it pertains to the years from the late 1820's to the late 1830's, when London was truly becoming established.

According to Seaborn (1944:144), the property which now forms Victoria Park was part of a parcel transferred from the Crown to the East Middlesex Agricultural Society. Following the Rebellion of 1837, it was transferred to the military in exchange for other property in the town. As detailed in the previous study by Behr et al. (1995), documentary research provides no firm evidence for historic land use of the property prior to the inception of the British garrison. Negative evidence is derived from contemporary maps, which show no settlement or homestead on the park property. There is also an untitled, unsigned 1840 map of the Town of London with notes about squatters on town lots in 1837 (Unknown 1840). No squatters are shown in the area of what is now Victoria Park.

Establishment of the British Garrison (1838-1853 A.D.)

This 16 year period spans the establishment and initial occupation of the British garrison, from the inception of the military reserve in 1838 to the withdrawal of the troops in 1853. Following the outbreak of rebellion in Upper and Lower Canada in December, 1837, the government moved quickly in response to the threat to security of the colony. Elements of the 32nd Regiment of Foot were dispatched to London by sleigh from Halifax, arriving in January, 1838 (Miller 1992:29).

Some of the troops were initially housed in the O'Brien Block at Dundas and Ridout, London's first commercial brick building, while others were billeted in private homes (Miller 1992:29). Plans for the garrison progressed, and a military reserve was established. It covered an area of some 73 acres, or 10 city blocks, extending from what is now Richmond Street east to Waterloo, and from Dufferin Avenue northward to Kenneth Avenue, just south of Piccadilly.

The perimeter of the military reserve was marked by a series of boundary stones. At least one of these still survives. It is located at the intersection of Kenneth and Waterloo, and marked the northeast corner of the reserve. The stone bears the inscription "B" and "O" separated by an up-pointing arrow (indicating British Government property) above the number "10". Research indicates that "BO" signifies the Board of Ordnance, a British government agency which was abolished in 1855 (Gooding 1966:144). While this demonstrates that the marker can date no later than 1855, it is likely that this

and other boundary stones were erected at the time the garrison was established, ca. 1838-1839. As such, this marker is roughly 160 years old. Up until several years ago, a similar boundary stone stood within the southwestern part of Victoria Park itself.

The main components of the military reserve were the Framed Infantry Barracks within what is now Victoria Park, the Royal Artillery Drill Ground to the north, the Log Barracks across Wellington to the east, and the Royal Artillery Barracks and the Commissariat complex to the southeast.

Framed Infantry Barracks The area intended for the garrison may still have been forested when work began. Certainly, a preliminary to construction was to clear the ground, and an 1839 plan of the Framed Infantry Barracks entitled "Estimate for a Barracks for a Regiment at London, Upper Canada" includes the notation "*the whole of the interior space is now cleared of stumps...*" (W.O. 55/1917). Research by the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada indicates that work on the infantry barracks began in December, 1838, and that it was finished in August, 1840 (Lambart n.d.). Plans and estimates for proposed works demonstrate that a number of minor additions continued to be made to the Framed Barracks during the early 1840's.

The Framed Infantry Barracks covered an area of some 10 acres encompassing the northern two-thirds of what is now Victoria Park. The balance of the property to the south was used as the Infantry Drill Ground. Figure 1 illustrates a facsimile of an 1849 plan of this portion of the military reserve (Wright 1849). Plans for the Framed Barracks buildings were most likely provided by the Royal Engineers (Vincent 1993). The contractor was Edward Matthews, whose son-in-law had a saw mill in Dorchester. Modern histories quote different amounts for the value of the contract, but a contemporary report states that the Framed Barracks cost £30,000 currency (or £24,000 sterling) (Alexander 1843:236).

A watercolour by Henry Ainslie, dated June 1842, shows a view across the Royal Artillery Drill Ground to the Framed Infantry Barracks as it appeared just two years after construction was completed. This watercolour illustrates that by the summer of 1842 the artillery drill ground had already been cleared of forest, but was still covered by stumps.

The Framed Infantry Barracks is also the subject of two early watercolours by George R. Dartnell, the surgeon in charge of the Framed Hospital (de Poncier 1992:96-97). One, dated June 1841, is entitled "*the band field at London*", and depicts the Infantry Drill Ground at the south end of Victoria Park. The other, dated May 1843, shows a view of the barracks from the direction of Oxford Street looking south. As with Ainslie's watercolour, stumps are a pervasive feature of the landscape in both these illustrations.

The completion of the Framed Infantry Barracks would have involved a whole series of tasks, from the initial clearance of stumps to the construction of the buildings and the final preparation of the grounds. Most of the available information deals with the buildings themselves. However, it may be assumed that in the process, natural humps and hollows of the original forest floor would have been levelled out, and depressions left by the removal of the stumps filled in. A final step in the completion of the complex would have been to plant grass in the Infantry Drill Ground and parade square. One

of the more interesting early plans of the Framed Infantry Barracks relates to this process. It is entitled "*Sketch to accompany Estimate dated 24th December 1840 showing in yellow the additions proposed to the barracks at LONDON U.C.*" (W.O. 55/1618 p222A). Included on this plan is a detailed rendering of the roller used in preparing the grass.

The Framed Infantry Barracks was enclosed by a wooden stockade. It was rectangular in shape with bastions at each corner. Plans of the complex are consistent in illustrating that the corners of these bastions projected into the centre of the road rights-of-way of Wellington and Central to the northeast and of Clarence and Central to the northwest. The respective southeast and southwest corners of the stockade similarly projected into the centre of the rights-of-way of the projected alignment of Princess Street at Wellington and at Clarence, respectively. Entrances into the Framed Infantry Barracks were provided at the centre points on the north, east and south sides of the stockade.

The initial stockade was a simple fence constructed from stumps. This enclosure was built under the orders of Colonel George A. Weatherall, commander of the Royal Scots Regiment (the 1st Foot) which was stationed in London from May 1840 to June 1843. According to Armstrong (1986:58), the fence was formed from stumps removed in clearing the road rights-of-way in the Town of London. This civic contribution to the development of the town was devised by Weatherall as a punishment detail for disorderly soldiers.

Edwin Seaborn provides somewhat more detailed information on this construction. He states that the fence was created from stumps cleared from Wellington Street north of Dufferin, as well as from the garrison grounds themselves. The stump fence lined the perimeter of the northern part of the Framed Barracks complex; the lands to the south were surrounded by a wall of pickets looped for defence (Seaborn 1944:144). In time, a formal wooden stockade enclosed the entire Framed Infantry Barracks. Later photographs indicate that the stockade was about the height of a man, and was constructed of wooden posts about the same diameter as fence posts. Sentry posts were provided at each entrance.

The Framed Infantry Barracks consisted of several dozen different buildings and other structures surrounding a parade square. Troop strength varied somewhat over time, but during the period 1845-1846, for example the Framed Infantry Barracks housed a force of 591 men, including 19 soldiers, 60 non-commissioned officers, and 512 privates (Seaborn 1944:149). As the name implies, the Framed Infantry Barracks was of frame construction. Reference to documentation from the 1860's suggests that all but one of the buildings were roofed with shingles. The exception was the ordnance magazine, which had a tin roof.

The two main buildings were the soldiers' quarters and the officers' quarters. These structures flanked the northern and southern edges of the parade square, respectively. Both were two storeys high, and both were well supplied with brick chimneys and with windows. Later photographs, for instance, illustrate that the soldiers' quarters alone had 14 chimneys and over 100 windows.

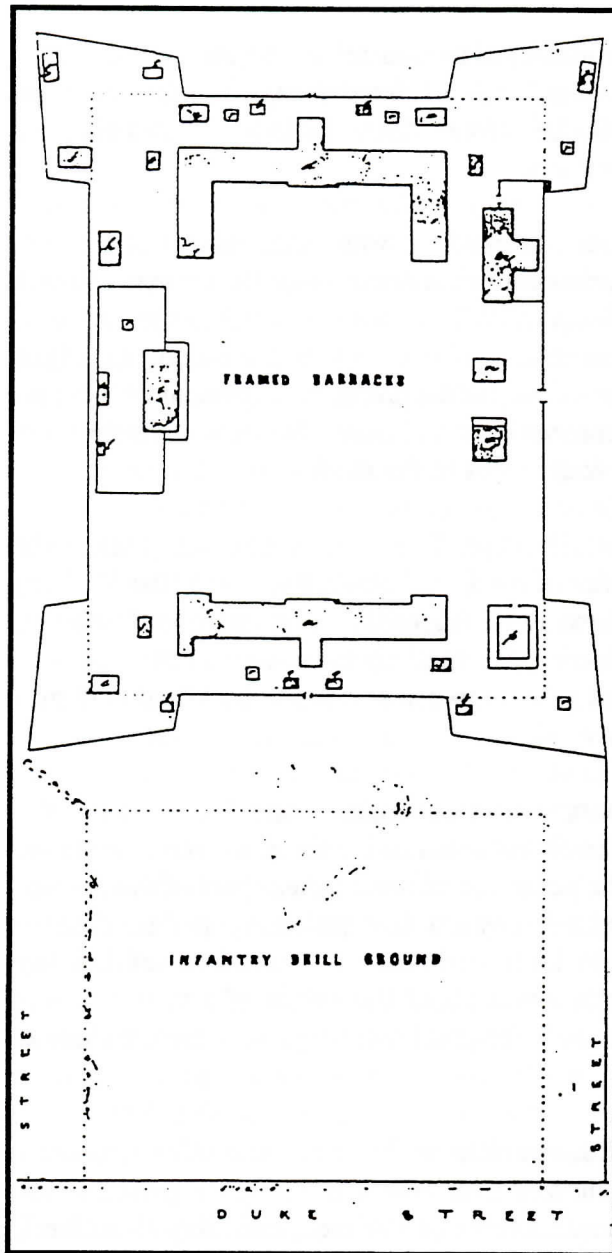


Figure 1 The Framed Infantry Barracks:
facsimile of 1849 plan

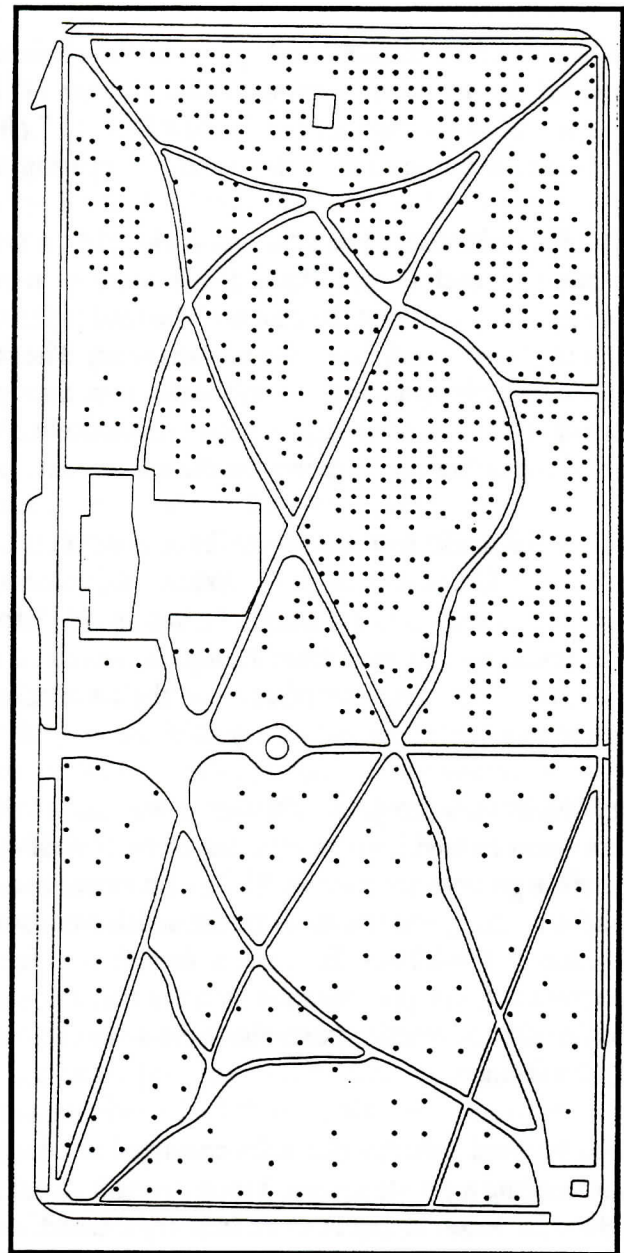


Figure 2 Victoria Park: distribution of Stage
2 archaeological test pits

The soldiers' quarters was 300 feet long and contained 53 rooms. It was designed to house 720 men. Some rooms within this structure probably changed function through time, but an 1865 plan identifies 28 rooms for the men as well as two school rooms, two reading rooms, several offices for sergeants, a sergeants' mess and a sergeants' kitchen, a tailors' shop and a shoe makers' shop. The two floors of the wing which projected northward from the centre of the soldiers' quarters housed the barracks

stores and the Regimental Quarter Masters' office.

The officers' quarters to the south was 275 feet long and contained 46 rooms. Another plan of 1865 indicates that this structure housed a wide variety of facilities. These included 23 officers' rooms, an orderly room, the Barracks Sergeants' office, and the Barracks Masters' office. No fewer than 15 of the rooms in this building (fully 33% of the total) were devoted to the preparation and consumption of food. These included two officers' mess rooms, two officers' mess kitchens, three rooms identified as "F.O. Kitchens" (possibly for officers of field rank - major or above), five separate kitchens associated with individual officers' sleeping quarters, a sergeants' mess, and two sergeants' mess kitchens. Still other rooms related to food preparation and consumption included two ante rooms to the officers' mess rooms, a plate room, a larder, and a room for the mess man.

Additional buildings enclosed the Framed Infantry Barracks parade square on the other two sides: the hospital compound to the west, and the canteen, cells, guard house and defaulters room to the east. Another significant building was the ordnance magazine. It was located directly east of the officers' quarters, in the southeast corner of the barracks, and was enclosed by a picket with an entrance from the north.

A plan of the proposed canteen, dated 1839, indicates that the eastern wing of this structure had a cellar: this is the only evidence of a building in the Framed Infantry Barracks which had a cellar (W.O. 55/1917). The canteen was connected at the north and south ends to the exterior stockade by two pickets. These effectively created two enclosed yards linked by a narrow passage way. The northern of the enclosures contained a small unidentified structure: it was located at the point where the picket connected with the northeastern bastion, and may have represented a privy. Later maps do not show a picket for the canteen compound. This indicates that it was removed sometime after 1849.

The hospital compound was entirely enclosed by a picket, leaving a space some 20 feet wide between the compound and the western wall of the stockade. As described by Seaborn (1944:147), the picket around the hospital compound was intended "*as much for the prevention of escape of any patient who might become delirious, as for defence against an enemy*". The Framed Hospital complex included a privy and a well in addition to a dead house and straw shed. The hospital was two storeys high, and measured 90 feet by 40 feet, with wards for 56 patients. As with other major buildings, this structure underwent some changes over time. However, an 1865 plan illustrates that the hospital included a surgery, a purveyors' store, a kitchen, a pantry, a cook and orderly's room, a pack store, a bathroom, an ablution room, an office for the hospital sergeant, and wards for 8-10 patients.

The dead house in the hospital compound was used to store the bodies of any soldiers who died over winter, and whose burial had to await the coming of spring, when the ground thawed and graves could be dug. The straw shed was used to store ticking for mattresses.

Still other structures in the Framed Infantry Barracks of the 1840's included two officers' privies, two privies for the soldiers and women (with separate cubicles for each), two soldiers' cook houses, a soldiers' wash house, an armourers' shop, five wells and four ash pits. In addition, a stable for the officers' horses was located in the southwestern corner of the barracks. Cess pools and drains were

also included to provide sanitation, although they are not depicted on most plans of the period. A plan of 1842 depicts a proposed drain extending northward from the Framed Barracks across Great Market Street (Central Avenue) to empty into "Mill Pond Creek" (later Carling's Creek) (W.O. 55/877). The outlet of this drain was in what is now the Station Park development north of Pall Mall.

Fire was a constant threat in the 19th century, and concerns for the danger from fire within the barracks were addressed by the construction of an engines house for the pump or fire engine, and by the installation of four 12,000 gallon subterranean water tanks. The soldiers' quarters and the officers' quarters were each flanked by two of these tanks.

A few amenities were also provided within the barracks. These included a sunken garden in front of the officers' quarters, in which was planted a plum tree. This was the only tree standing within what is now Victoria Park during the period of the barracks' occupation. One of the early plans identifies a "Garden for Troops", decreed by the Board of Ordnance April 24, 1843. It was situated immediately to the west of the Framed Infantry Barracks, and occupied the triangular-shaped piece of land between Clarence Street and Mark Lane (now Richmond Street).

The lands immediately south of the Framed Infantry Barracks formed what was designated the Drill Ground. Beginning in the 1840's, this area served as the place where the garrison hosted special events and celebrations for the troops and for the people of London. These included band concerts as well as the annual celebration of Queen Victoria's birthday. This area of the property also served as a cricket field, and is identified as such on some early maps.

Additional military facilities were constructed directly to the east of what is now Victoria Park in the period 1839-1842. These included the Commissariat Office and Commissariat Stores, now occupied by City Hall (built in 1971), and the Royal Artillery Barracks and stables, now occupied by Reg Cooper Square and the underground parking lot for City Hall.

Log Barracks Between 1841 and 1842, another barracks complex, the Log Barracks, was constructed directly to the north of the Royal Artillery Barracks, immediately east of the Framed Infantry Barracks. This complex, which is included in Henry Ainslie's water colour of June, 1842, was located south of Central Avenue between Wellington Street and Waterloo, and straddled the alignment of Wolfe Street. Part of the Log Barracks complex lay within the limits of what is now the Kiwanis Parking Lot north of Centennial Hall.

The Log Barracks was built of hand-hewn logs, most likely using timber from the clearance of the forest from the military reserve. A plan by Wright (1849) indicates that this barracks consisted of some 49 buildings and other structures. Nineteen of these consisted of soldiers' quarters: 15 for infantry soldiers; and four for soldiers of the Royal Artillery. These structures each measured 16 by 24 feet, and were intended to accommodate 20 men per building. Other structures within this barracks included a guard house, defaulters room and cells for the infantry, and a guard house and cells for the artillery. In addition, the Log Barracks included three staff sergeants' quarters, three cook houses, a washing house, an armourers' shop, a library, tailors' and shoemakers' shops, two gun sheds, an old school room which had been taken over as an engineer's office, three privies, three wells and two

ash pits. A separate compound was situated in the eastern portion of the Log Barracks. It included the two storey Log Hospital and associated dead house and privy.

Research to date suggests that during the 1840's the Log Barracks functioned as an ancillary facility to the Framed Infantry Barracks to the west and the Royal Artillery Barracks to the south. The fact that this barracks was built of hand hewn logs rather than frame construction suggests that the Log Barracks was never intended as a long term facility. Indeed, comparisons of contemporary plans from the 1840's and 1850's indicate that most of the buildings in the Log Barracks complex were demolished in 1850. However, two components of the Log Barracks survived this demolition and continued in use into the late 1860's.

One of the components of the Log Barracks to survive the demolition of 1850 consisted of the cells, guard house and defaulters room, located in the west-central portion of the barracks. This complex is generally identified as "Prison" or "Provost Cells" on later plans. The other component of the Log Barracks to survive was the Log Hospital compound, located in the east-central portion of the barracks. The Log Hospital had a long existence, and in many respects represents one of the more interesting buildings in the history of London. From 1858 to 1862, it served as a hospital for the city, with 24 beds. For some years in the latter part of the 1860's, it was in use as married quarters for the garrison, but following the withdrawal of troops in 1869 it again reverted to use as a city hospital. In 1871, it became the House of Refuge for the poor of the City of London (Seaborn 1944:228).

Royal Artillery Drill Ground The portion of the military reserve north of the Framed Infantry Barracks formed the Royal Artillery Drill Ground. It was bounded to the south by the alignment of Great Market Street (now Central Avenue), to the west by Mark Lane (now Richmond Street), and to the north by a stream called Carling's Creek. Morden (1988:7) records that a pond on Carling's Creek was formed when Colonel Horn ordered his men as a fatigue duty to level a 30 foot hill between Hyman Street and Pall Mall Streets and use the earth to dam the creek where it crossed Richmond Street south of Piccadilly: this pond extended from Richmond east to Waterloo. Lieutenant-Colonel J. M. Horn was the commanding officer of the 20th regiment of foot (stationed in the garrison from 1847 to 1850), and this body of water was named Lake Horn (or Horne) in his honour. Comparisons of early maps by the present study determined that Lake Horn actually represented the eastward extension of an earlier mill pond which predated the military reserve by more than a decade: this pond appears on maps at least as early as 1837. Lake Horn was a popular bathing and boating spot for both the troops and the people of London in the mid 19th century.

The creation of Lake Horn in the late 1840's barred the through access of Wellington Street north of Pall Mall, and necessitated a deviation of Wellington to the northeast to get around it. This detour is identified as "*road across the reserve*" in a plan by Wright (1849). Wellington Street deviated to the northeast between Great Market Street (Central Avenue) and Pall Mall, to the point where a bridge crossed Carling's Creek at Waterloo Street. This bridge was situated immediately southeast of the extreme northeast corner of the military reserve.

According to Edwin Seaborn (1944:144-145), the open area to the north of the Log Barracks had several large artificial depressions floored with tan bark. These were used to exercise the artillery

horses and the officers' chargers. This area also had kennels for dogs used in fox hunts which were a popular pastime with the troops. In addition, it was the rallying place for both the fox hunts and the Grand Military Steeple Chase.

The Framed Infantry Barracks formed an integral part of the economic and social life of the Town of London for more than a decade. This came to an end in 1853, when the troops were ordered to be withdrawn to England. The order to vacate the garrison was unexpected, but may have been occasioned by mounting tensions in Europe which lead, the following year, to the outbreak of war with Russia in the Crimea.

Inter-Military Interval (1853-1861 A.D.)

This nine year interval spans the period from the withdrawal of the troops to Europe in 1853 to the return of the garrison in 1861. It was during this period, in 1855, that London was incorporated as a city.

Limited historic research conducted to date indicates that the Framed Infantry Barracks played an important role in the history of London's black community during this period. One example of this, noted by Armstrong (1986:100), is that the barracks was used in 1855 as a refugee camp for 700 ex-slaves from the United States. Miller (1992:72) also records that on August 11 of that year, 700 blacks, including recent arrivals as well as long-term residents of London, attended a thanksgiving ceremony at St. Paul's Cathedral a few blocks to the south. This was to commemorate Emancipation Day, the anniversary of the abolition of slavery in the British Empire. More detailed historical research using primary sources is needed to document the genesis and duration of the residence of ex-slaves in the barracks. However, this episode in the land use of the property promises to yield new insights into the early history of the city and the part it played as a terminus for the Underground Railroad in southwestern Ontario.

Another link between Victoria Park and early black history in London relates to racial prejudice in the mid 19th century common schools. Benjamin Drew, who interviewed black settlers in London during the 1850's, recorded that many of the white parents objected to their children having to share form rooms with "colored people", and that some of the "lower classes" simply refused to send their children to the same schools (Miller 1992:73). The response to this problem was as follows:

In 1854, the Church of England Colonial Church and School Society hired Rev. Martin M. Dillon, of Dominica, to set up a mixed race school in an abandoned barracks building. Assisting him were R.M. Ballantine, of Jamaica, and two black women teachers from Dominica, Sara and Mary Jane Titre. Under their tutelage, the children (all 450 to 500 of them!) learned to work and play together without regard to skin colour. Visitors to the school often remarked how well the students, black and white, got along. Although the school itself was successful, illnesses among the staff created some strains. In 1859, the school closed, when it was announced that the common schools would be taking black children without prejudice (Miller 1992:73).

If the student body for this school was as large as that reported by Miller, it seems likely that the

school itself was housed in one or both of the two largest buildings in the barracks, the soldiers' quarters and the officers' quarters, as those were the only two structures that would have been big enough to have accommodated several hundred students. Regardless of the specifics, the five year span of this integrated school illustrates one more dimension in the varied history of what was to become Victoria Park.

In addition to the black presence, Orlo Miller records that many of the buildings within the military reserve were taken over by poor squatters during this period (Miller 1992:91). This is not surprising, as the presence of several dozen abandoned buildings throughout the reserve constituted ready made housing at no cost for the expanding population of London. Part of the property, identified by Miller as the parade square, but more likely the drill ground, was also pressed into use by London sportsmen as a baseball field.

An 1856 map illustrates one other important element in the evolution of the property: a notation in the area of the Drill Ground which reads "*Proposed to be Purchased by the City of London for a Park*" (Best 1856). This represents the earliest evidence of a proposal to develop any part of the property as a public park. It is also noteworthy that the same map illustrates Bond Street (later Princess Street) as extending through the property, separating the Framed Infantry Barracks from the Drill Ground. This road alignment was probably planned but not realized. Nevertheless, it demonstrates that the city administrators of the time considered the southern end of what was to become Victoria Park as separate and distinct from the northern two-thirds of the property which contained the barracks.

Other changes occurred in the area surrounding the Framed Infantry Barracks in the period preceding the return of British troops. These included the use of the old Log Hospital as a hospital for the city. The most notable change in the landscape occurred the very year the troops returned, when the area of the Drill Ground of the Royal Artillery Barracks north of Victoria Park and the former Log Barracks was chosen as the site for the Provincial Exhibition of September, 1861. In preparation for the exhibition, the city constructed a series of structures, the most notable of which was a 28,000 square foot wooden building known as the Crystal Palace. This structure was situated immediately northeast of the intersection of Wellington Street and Central Avenue.

Return of the British Garrison (1861-1869 A.D.)

In 1861, unrest arising from the American Civil War lead to the transfer of 10,000 Imperial Troops to Canada. Two thousand of these troops were assigned to the London garrison (Armstrong 1986; Miller 1992). The Framed Barracks were re-occupied and derelict buildings were repaired. Existing facilities were insufficient to house all of the troops, and several other buildings in the city were either rented or refurbished to provide accommodation for the soldiers. These included the Crystal Palace Barracks to the north and northeast of Victoria Park, and the Royal Exchange Barracks on what is now the site of the London Regional Art and Historical Museums.

Concerns over the threat of an American invasion soon eased, and troop strength was reduced. However, the garrison continued to be maintained throughout most of the decade, providing security

from the threat of Fenian raids during the mid to late 1860's. Altogether, this second occupation of the garrison lasted nine years, until the British troops were finally withdrawn in May, 1869.

Period mapping shows a number of changes, additions and deletions to the Framed Infantry Barracks during this time (e.g. Hassard 1867). Sometime between 1862 and 1865, the perimeter stockade was realigned, particularly along the north and west sides of the compound. This altered the shape of the northeastern, northwestern and southwestern bastions. The modifications to the stockade were most radical for the northern wall: the new configuration extended straight across between the ends of the two northern bastions, down what would now be the middle of Central Avenue.

By 1862, a structure had been added to the northwestern part of the barracks complex, immediately northwest of the soldiers' quarters. This building is variously identified as "open cook house" (in a plan of 1865) and as "military store" (in a plan of 1867). Plans dating from 1865 to 1867 also identify two new soldiers' wash houses. These supplemented the one wash house built in the early 1840's.

Another structure added by 1867 was a magazine to house the new breech-loading Sniders rifles. It was located to the east of the original ordnance magazine, and had a roof of tarred felt and earth. The addition of the Sniders magazine necessitated the expansion of the old ordnance magazine enclosure to contain both magazines.

Several changes were also made to the hospital compound during this period. These included the expansion of the picket containing the hospital compound northward to the engines house, and westward to the expanded western segment of the exterior stockade. A number of renovations were undertaken to the hospital itself. More significant changes included the addition of an office building and a new ward: the 1872 birdseye view of London illustrates that these structures were both two storeys high.

By 1867, two gardens had been added to the Framed Infantry Barracks. One was situated along the north edge of the barracks, between the soldiers' quarters and the expanded stockade, on the northern edge of what is now Victoria Park. The other was located in the area immediately south of the hospital compound, west of the officers' quarters, where the bandshell now stands (NMC 0022473). These gardens replaced the "Garden for Troops" of the 1840's which had been located in the triangle of land west of the barracks, between Clarence and Richmond.

During the 1860's, the British garrison continued the tradition it had established in the 1840's of hosting periodic celebrations for the people of London. These included regimental games which were held every Victoria Day (May 24) on the Drill Ground at the south end of the property (Armstrong 1986). This was also the site of popular cricket matches. A photograph dated July 1, 1867 depicts a ceremony held on this field to celebrate the birth of the Dominion of Canada.

The Evolution of Victoria Park (1871-Present)

This period spans more than 125 years, from the transition of the property as military barracks to public park, down to the present day. The initial five year period from the withdrawal of British

troops in 1869 to the formal dedication of Victoria Park in 1874 was a time of transition. The Framed Infantry Barracks buildings continued to stand for several years after the withdrawal of troops, and the complex appears intact in the 1872 birdseye view of London. That same year, however, a fire occurred which destroyed at least one major building: the officers' quarters (Lambart n.d.:1).

The City of London took over the Framed Hospital building for use as a civic hospital in 1871 (Seaborn 1944:228), but within a few years, this structure and other remaining buildings were auctioned off and either demolished or moved in the mid 1870's in preparation for the park. Edwin Seaborn, writing in 1944, records the following with respect to these structures:

To prepare the grounds for park purposes the remaining buildings, the officers' quarters having been destroyed by fire, were sold and removed, some to 156, 158 and 162 Hyman Street, where they still are...The old hospital itself was sold in two parts. Lawrence Hyttenraugh watched the hospital being cut in two. A man beginning at the top of the roof sawed to the bottom, then sawed the other side in the same way. Each part was moved separately. A winch was anchored ahead, planks and rollers were laid down, horses went around a circle and men carried the planks forward. Mr. Thomas Orr and Mrs. Robinson Orr bought the south half, moved it to the corner of Mill and Richmond Streets with the long side on Richmond, converting it into two apartments. This part of the old hospital has been utilized in building the C.P.R. Hotel. It has lost all resemblance to the old building. Mr. Abbott, the city clerk, bought the north half and had it moved to 197 Mill Street, converting it into a single residence...(Seaborn 1944:238-240).

Seaborn illustrates two of the structures that were moved in the 1870's, including the one that represented the north half of the Framed Hospital (Figure 3). It occupied the site of what is now the parking lot for the C.P.R. Hotel, more popularly known as the Ceeps.

During this period, in the early years of the 1870's, the property came to be known as "the commons", and contemporary accounts indicate that it functioned much like an English commons, with a variety of informal land uses. One reported use of "the commons" during the 1870's consisted of the growing of potatoes by squatters. This activity may well have taken place in what had been the two soldiers' gardens, one to the north of the soldiers' quarters, the other to the south of the hospital compound.

Still another activity during the early 1870's was the use of the property for early morning practices by the Morning Star Baseball Club, one of London's first baseball clubs (London Life 1923:15). This probably took place in the former Drill Ground at the southern end of the property. Edwin Seaborn notes some of the abandoned wells in the former military garrison had become dangerous, as the boards covering them were decayed and loose. One of these wells was located near a path across the commons. This path was used by members of the Carling family in walking from the downtown area to the Carling Brewery and residence, then situated at Carling's Creek and Waterloo Street, half a kilometre to the northeast of Victoria Park. Seaborn records that as a precaution, whenever a member of the Carling family had to cross the commons at night during this period, they were accompanied by a man with a lantern (Seaborn 1944:202).

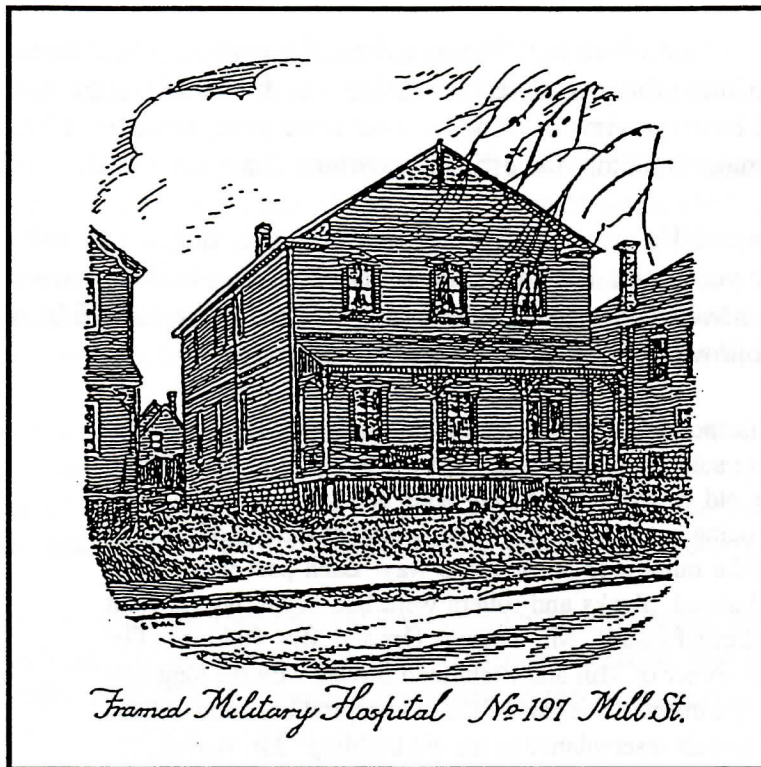


Figure 3 Facsimile of sketch of the relocated north half of the Framed Hospital (Seaborn 1944)

As described by Behr et al. (1995:18), efforts to transform the former Framed Infantry Barracks property into a park began early in the 1870's, a few years before the military buildings were even removed, and several years before the park was formally dedicated by Lord Dufferin in August 1874, or the deed to the property was acquired in 1876, or Charles Miller was commissioned to design Victoria Park in 1878.

The first step to create the park was undertaken in 1871, when a double row of trees were planted around the perimeter of the property to form a riding promenade. This promenade is well illustrated as "the Driveway" in a ca. 1900 postcard reproduced as Figure L-25 in Behr et al. (1995). It had ceased to exist some time before the geodetic survey of the early 1920's.

However, the section of the promenade parallel to Wellington Street on the east side of the park is clearly visible in the 1923 low level aerial photograph taken for the geodetic survey.

During these years, there were complaints that pigs, cows and geese were grazing within Victoria Park. To address this problem, a high picket fence was erected to enclose the property (Morden 1988:9). Errant livestock probably became less of a problem as the street frontages ringing it were developed in the late 1870's and 1880's. In time, the picket fence surrounding the property became derelict and was removed.

Public concerts had been a popular part of the life of the garrison during the period of the Framed Infantry Barracks, and this tradition has continued throughout the history of Victoria Park. The first bandstand erected in the park was built on the site of what is now the Boer War monument. It was constructed in 1876, and was flanked by the three field guns from Sebastopol which Sir John Carling had donated to commemorate the British and French victory in the Crimean War.

An outing to this bandstand is described by Amelia Ryerse Harris in a diary entry of July 5, 1879. Her account of the event contains a rare first-hand description of the early park. It reads as follows:

Mrs. Becher called for me and took me to hear the band. There were a great many people there & most of the elite of London. The park is in a very primitive state, and it will be many years before there will be shade trees to make it pretty & pleasant. Two or three times I could scarcely restrain my tears as I thought of the past, before bereavement and separation had taken place in the family, & I used to attend the band with my husband & surrounded with sons & daughters (Harris and Harris 1994:355-356).

As her husband, John Harris, died in 1850, Amelia Harris' memories of these early band concerts pertain to the 1840's: the first decade of the existence of the Framed Infantry Barracks.

The first bandstand was demolished around the turn of the century, and a second wooden bandstand was erected somewhat further to the north in 1905. In 1914, a skating rink was added to the south of the bandstand, and the structure was tarped and served as a change room and concession (Behr et al. 1995: Figure L-6).

Although research to date only identifies one bandstand in existence between 1905 and the late 1930's, reference to the 1923 low level aerial photograph taken for the geodetic survey suggests otherwise. The bandstand in existence as of 1923 is clearly evident on the aerial photograph. However, the imprint of a former structure of apparently identical size and shape also appears, located roughly 30 metres to the south. This suggests that the second bandstand may originally have been constructed at the more southerly location in 1905, and that it was moved less than a decade later, to make room for the skating rink built in 1914.

Charles Miller's plan of 1878 for Victoria Park incorporated a number of the elements that had already been realized, including the riding promenade, the bandstand, and the Russian guns. Other features planned by Miller were soon realized. These included the creation in 1878-1880 of two wide gravel carriageways as well as a series of pathways. Still other early elements included the construction of a three tiered Cupid Fountain and nearby drinking fountain in 1879, the addition of straight walkways from corner to corner in 1888, and the creation of a lily pond and Wishing Well Fountain in 1890, and a greenhouse in the 1890's. Most of these features are recognizable on the 1881 Fire Insurance map, the 1923 aerial photograph, and/or the 1927 geodetic survey map.

Another landmark in the early history of the park was the installation of electric lighting. The first use of electric lamps within Victoria Park dates from 1882, when 7000 people came out to the "great electric lighting-up". This event was described in the June 12, 1882 issue of the London Free Press, as follows: *"Five large lamps on high poles illuminated the grounds in a manner that excited admiration, everything within the radiance of light being rendered as distinct and as clear as in daylight"* (quoted in Morden 1988:10).

A number of other changes took place within Victoria Park in the first half of the 20th century. These included the construction of the Boer War Monument in 1914 and of the Cenotaph in 1934. In the 1920's tennis lawns were installed at the northern and southern ends of the park. With the advent of the automobile, the two carriageways which extended through the park were opened to motorized traffic. In 1939, the 1879 Cupid Fountain was replaced with an illuminated fountain: excitement over this event caused traffic jams.

Following World War 2, the end of post-war austerity finally enabled the long-delayed construction of a bandshell to replace the bandstand. This structure, the Kiwanis bandshell, was completed in June, 1950. The following year, the roads through the park were closed to motorized traffic, and were narrowed to pathways. The year 1958 saw the creation of a shuffleboard court north of the bandshell, and the inception of what has become a tradition within the park: the installation of Christmas lights which marked the beginning of the annual Winter Wonderland celebration. That same year, the Holy Roller Tank, which had seen action at Normandy in World War 2, was installed. In 1963, the illuminated fountain was removed: this was one of the last major features of Charles Miller's original 1878 concept for Victoria Park.

Additional changes have occurred over the past decade. Foremost among these was the construction in 1990 of a new bandshell to replace the 1950 bandshell. The new structure was larger than the one it replaced, and entailed significant landscape modifications in the immediate area. In response to concerns for impacts to potential archaeological resources associated with the Framed Infantry Barracks, the architect for the project engaged the consulting firm of Archaeological Services Inc. to conduct monitoring of the construction. No significant or intact remains of the 19th century barracks were identified by the monitoring, although some refuse potentially associated with the occupation was recovered in one area (ASI 1991).

STAGE 2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY

The field survey of Victoria Park was carried out over a nine day period in October, 1997. The strategy for the survey involved systematic coverage by test pitting at fixed intervals of 5-10 metres throughout the park. A five metre interval was used in the areas encompassed by the former Framed Infantry Barracks; a 10 metre interval was used in the lands to the south (Figure 2). Gaps were present in the survey coverage at points where prospective test pits fell within asphalt paths or other hard surfaces. Additional gaps occurred where points of the survey grid fell within 3 metres of a tree, or within utilities rights-of-way. The latter included hydro and water mains as well as buried telephone cables.

Results

In all, 793 pits were excavated during the course of the Stage 2 archaeological survey resulting in the recovery of 7,397 artifacts. This sum is exclusive of 173 recent items which are not considered to be of archaeological significance. Excluding recent materials, a total of 177 test pits were sterile: these represent 22% of all test pits. The field survey confirmed the presence of a significant quantity of cultural material within Victoria Park. No evidence to substantiate a prehistoric presence in the property was identified by the survey. Rather, analysis indicates that the majority of the remains pertain to the general period of the occupation of the Framed Infantry Barracks in the mid 19th century. As a result of this assessment, the Framed Barracks site has been registered as AfHh-244.

Artifacts recovered by the survey include a range of material pertaining to various historically documented periods in the evolution of the property. One feature confirmed by the survey was the riding promenade which originally extended around the park. This feature dates from 1871, and

represents the first component of the park to be realized. The survey also recovered graphite electrodes from electric arc lamps used to light the early park. Later evidence of lighting was recovered too, notably fragments of red and green Christmas lights. These could date to any time within the past 40 years, from 1958, when the city instituted the Winter Wonderland celebration.

Scant evidence was found for an historic presence within the property predating the genesis of the barracks in 1839-1840. Of the more than 7000 artifacts recovered by the archaeological survey of Victoria Park, only four or five specimens potentially date to the first two decades of the 19th century. All consist of ceramic sherds from broken plates, cups or bowls. These include a piece of a plain creamware plate and three sherds of pearlware, one or two of which are fragments of green edge ware plates. These remains were somewhat diffusely distributed. It is impossible to form any definitive interpretation of their significance on the basis of a test pit survey, but it is possible that they pertain to one or more earlier squatters resident within the property during the 1820's or 1830's.

The northern part of the park, where the barracks once stood, accounts for 93% of the artifact sample recovered by the survey. Some of these remains almost certainly belong to the period from 1853 to 1861, when the troops were absent from the barracks, and the facilities were used as a refugee camp and an integrated school. However, the vast majority of this material is presumed to relate to the years of the military occupation of the Framed Infantry Barracks, when several hundred individuals worked and lived in the complex.

Cultural remains recovered by the survey are dominated by artifacts which relate to the construction and maintenance of buildings, notably architectural remains (bricks, window glass, mortar and plaster), hardware (primarily nails) and material related to the heating of the structures (charcoal, coal and slag). Together, these comprise 3255 specimens, or 44% of the overall sample. The range and quantity of these remains attest to the substantial nature of the buildings which formed the Framed Infantry Barracks.

Domestic debris are also well represented in the material recovered. These include ceramic tablewares (bowls, plates, cups, saucers, etc.), utilitarian wares (notably coarse earthenware and stoneware vessels and glass bottles), glass tablewares (serving dishes, stemware and tumblers), and faunal remains (primarily the bones of cattle, sheep and pigs). These remains comprise a total of 2338 specimens, or 32% of the overall sample. Their presence in such quantity attests to the fact that the barracks served as home to several hundred people for a period of some decades.

Other classes of material are less well represented in the sample, but also serve to inform us about the daily lives of the men, women and children who lived in the barracks. These include personal items (smoking pipes, toiletry items, jewellery, toys, etc.), items of apparel (military and other buttons, buckles, etc.) (Figure 4) and arms (gun flints, lead shot, percussion caps, etc.).

Previous background studies had inferred that Victoria Park contained substantial and well-preserved foundations and other below-ground remains of the military barracks, and this was substantiated by the survey. The following discussions summarize the information for a number of key buildings for which data were obtained by the survey.

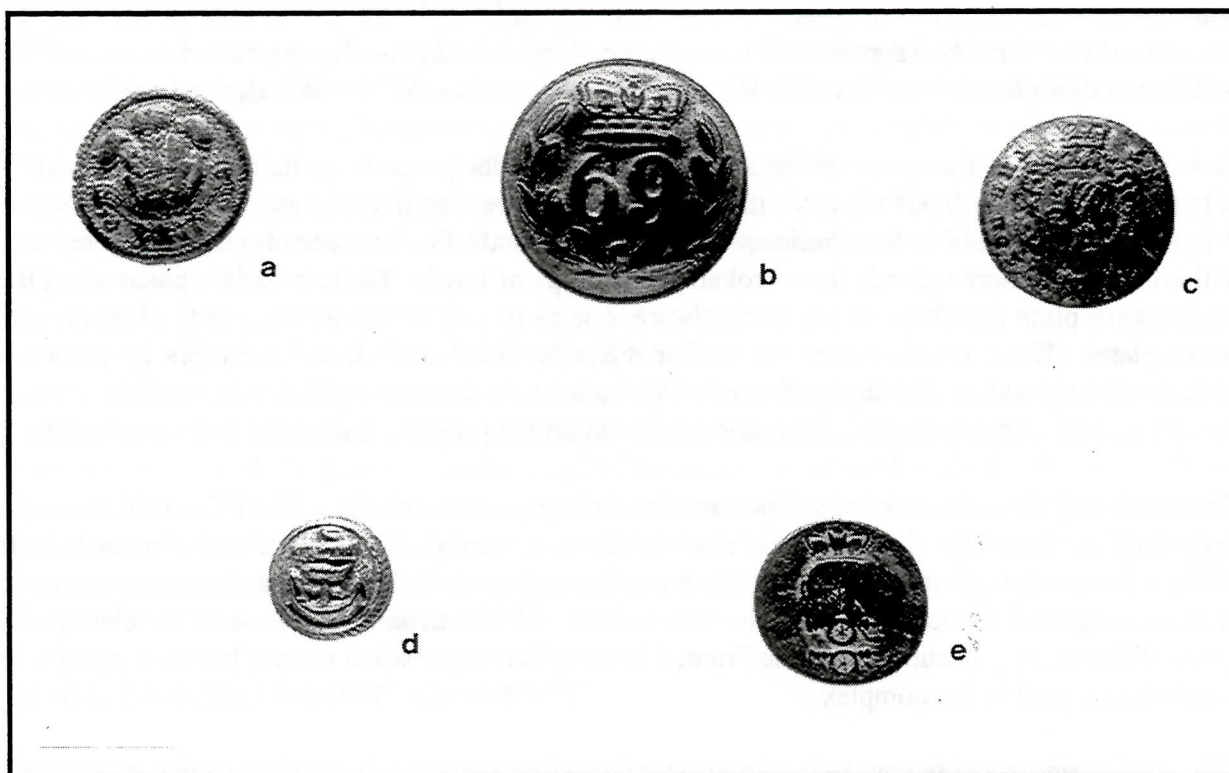


Figure 4 Select military buttons from Victoria Park

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| a | Royal Welsh Fusiliers button (1843-45, 1850-53) | d | unidentified gilt naval cap button |
| b | 2 nd . Battalion Welsh Regiment button (1867-69) | e | Royal Artillery Regiment button (1841-53) |
| c | Royal Irish Rifles button (1838-1842) | | |

Canteen The 1997 survey confirmed the presence of significant quantities of remains relating to the canteen. Architectural materials are very well represented: the sample from this area represents 24% of all of the architectural remains recovered by the Victoria Park survey. All materials are present in quantity, but brick and plaster are especially common in this area. Interestingly, the plaster includes many painted fragments, some with a whitewash, some with red paint. This demonstrates that at least certain rooms within the canteen had painted plaster walls. The canteen area also produced fully 24% of all nails recovered by the survey. This is second only to the area of the officers' quarters.

A more detailed distributional study of the architectural remains indicates that the test pits richest in these remains in the canteen area tend to occur along alignments. As it happens, these alignments compare reasonably well with the inferred alignment of the foundation of the canteen as determined by the study of historic maps of the barracks complex. Similar patterns also appear in the distributions for the soldiers' quarters and the officers' quarters. At best, these apparent correlations would indicate that the placement of the various buildings of the Framed Infantry Barracks inferred by the

study is remarkably precise. At the least, they indicate that the inferred locations are in the right ballpark. Whatever the case, excavations would be necessary to determine exactly how these various deposits relate to the structures in question.

The primary function of the canteen was to feed the men, and this is reflected in the nature of the other remains recovered from the vicinity of the canteen. This area produced nearly one quarter of the ceramic tablewares, almost 40% of the total sample of glass tablewares, including a number of tumblers, 40% of all smoking pipe fragments and 15% of the black glass fragments. Predictably, these figures demonstrate that tobacco and liquor were both consumed on the premises.

Officers' Quarters Survey of the park confirmed the presence of significant quantities of material relating to the occupation of this building. The three designated survey areas which straddled the officers' quarters together produced almost 20% of all architectural remains, including significant quantities of brick, window glass, mortar and plaster. As with the canteen, the plaster included painted fragments indicating that some of the interior walls in the officer's quarters were decorated with painted plaster. These areas also produced fully 40% of all nails recovered: these attest to both the substantial nature and the frame construction of the building.

Distributional analyses also indicated that the areas which contained the officers' quarters produced a relatively high proportion of the coal and slag recovered, and of the wood and charcoal. The former probably relate to the heating of the structure, but the latter are more likely to pertain to the fabric of the building, and provide some evidence for its' historically documented destruction by fire in 1872. The high incidence of nails may further reflect the destruction of the building by fire, as this event precluded the salvage and removal of framing materials and the nails they contained.

The background research indicated that over a third of the floor space of the officers' quarters consisted of rooms devoted to the preparation, consumption and storage of food. This factor is reflected in the relatively high representation of domestic debris recovered by the survey. The three survey areas which straddled this structure together produced 17% of all ceramic tablewares, and 27% of all glass tablewares.

The analysis of ceramic tablewares further indicated that the officers' quarters had a disproportionate quantity of more expensive wares. Fully 86% of the ceramic tableware rim sherds consisted of expensive wares. This figure is more than twice that for the areas of the soldiers' quarters and canteen, and clearly indicates that the distributions of material goods within the Framed Infantry Barracks reflect the relative economic and social status of the occupants who resided in different areas of the complex.

Soldiers' Quarters Survey of the park confirmed the presence of significant quantities of remains relating to the occupation of the soldiers' quarters. The area which contained the main body of the structure produced almost a third of all architectural remains recovered, including significant quantities of brick, window glass, mortar and plaster. As with the officers' quarters and the canteen, the plaster included painted fragments indicating that some of the interior walls in the soldiers' quarters were decorated with painted plaster.

The soldiers' quarters served as the residence for several hundred individuals for a period of some decades. Domestic activities are well represented in the relatively high representation of related refuse recovered by the survey: 30% of all tableware ceramics, 18% of all tableware glass, and 26% of the container glass. Although the distributional study suggests that the soldiers had a lower proportion of expensive ceramics, they did enjoy certain creature comforts. This is indicated by the fact that this area produced 27% of all smoking pipe fragments, and 28% of the black glass fragments which may relate to the consumption of liquor.

The area containing the soldiers' quarters also contained a significant proportion of the faunal remains: fully 42% of the bone refuse. While some of this material is associated with the soldiers' quarters, most of it was recovered immediately to the north, especially in the vicinity of the stockade. These distributions probably represent refuse disposal for the two nearby soldiers' cook houses.

Ordnance and Sniders Magazines Test pit survey confirmed the presence of a significant concentration of remains in the area of the magazine compound. Architectural remains within this area account for 11% of the total sample, and brick fragments are particularly well represented. The one architectural material which is very poorly represented is window glass. The virtual absence of window glass in this area would be consistent with the function and presumed structure of this compound, as both magazines probably lacked windows for security reasons.

The magazine compound was the one major structure or complex within the Framed Infantry Barracks which did not include domestic activities. This fact is reflected in the absence or low ratio of domestic items, including ceramic and glass tablewares, utilitarian ceramics, personal items, etc.

Interestingly, none of the sample of arms recovered by the survey was found in the vicinity of the ordnance magazine and Sniders magazine. Given the small sample size, this negative correlation may not be significant. However, it may reflect safety restrictions about the discharge of firearms in proximity to the magazines.

Framed Hospital Compound The 1997 survey was limited to the area containing the eastern half of the Framed Hospital building. A total of 133 artifacts were recovered from this area, and these included a range of material. Unfortunately, the low frequency of the remains generally precluded any meaningful interpretations of their potential association with the hospital. The one exception to the above was indicated by the analysis of container glass. The sample from Victoria Park included only two bottle fragments with flanged lips. Flanged lips often occur on medicine vials. Both specimens were recovered in the vicinity of the Framed Hospital. The recovery of these specimens from the vicinity of the hospital, and their absence elsewhere, is strong evidence for their association with the use of the hospital building.

Other Framed Barracks Facilities A wide range of other buildings and structures existed within the Framed Infantry Barracks in addition to those described above. The potential condition of these remains varies somewhat according to their nature and location. Many by their very nature would include or consist of deeply buried cultural remains. Among these are the wells, privies, and 12,000

gallon subterranean water tanks. The reconstruction of land use history suggests that virtually all of these and other structures within the former Framed Infantry Barracks are probably represented by surviving below-ground archaeological remains. The only significant exceptions would be the portions of the bastions which projected into modern road rights-of-way, and the segment of the northern stockade, realigned in 1867, which would follow the alignment of the centre of Central Avenue.

CONCLUSIONS

The various studies of Victoria Park undertaken on behalf of the City over the past several years have all identified the property as an area of great archaeological potential. While much remains to be learned about the below-ground heritage resources within the property, the 1997 survey confirms the presence of substantial and significant archaeological resources within Victoria Park. Altogether, the evidence indicates that Victoria Park contains the largest and best preserved historic archaeological site in the City of London.

Most archaeological remains recovered during the survey relate to the 19th century Framed Infantry Barracks. This complex formed an integral part of the military reserve in London, and had a tremendous impact on the social and economic development of the early municipality. The garrison was the largest British force in Canada west of Toronto at the time it was established. It played a crucial role in the security of Western Ontario in the mid 19th century, from the months following the Rebellion of 1837 through to the American Civil War and the Fenian Raids of the 1860's.

Research further indicates that the property has important links to the history of the black community in London and its relationship to the Underground Railway and the development of an integrated educational system in the 1850's. Still later archaeological remains confirmed by the assessment date from the early 1870's onward, and pertain to the evolution of the property as London's oldest public park. Several nationally important individuals were involved in this development, including William Saunders and Sir John Carling.

The relative significance of the archaeological remains within Victoria Park varies according to the particular remains in question. However, the present study indicates that the collective archaeological resources within the property are not only of local and regional, but also of provincial and national significance.

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